

RuDASA Statement On Public Sector Strike

RuDASA acknowledges the real issues raised by striking public sector workers and recognize that apart from salaries, anger has been fuelled by workers not feeling valued, poor management and working conditions, as well as terrible overload and burn out.

However, we cannot but condemn the manner in which the strike has been conducted and urge the unions to stop the intimidation, violence and loss of life that have shaken so many South Africans to the core.

We also, however, believe that much of the unnecessary loss of life must be laid at the door of government, which after nearly 10 years has still failed to put a minimum service agreement in place for essential services. This has resulted in total shutdown of health facilities during labour unrest and therefore government has failed to protect the rights of ordinary South Africans seeking emergency health care.

We therefore implore government and unions, on the resolution of the strike, to urgently get together to agree a minimum service agreement. To this end RuDASA endeavours to put a document on the table within the next two months outlining our proposals for minimum service levels for rural health facilities in the event of a labour dispute.

We also urge government to continue to engage all role-players in the healthcare sector to produce a comprehensive rural friendly Human Resources for Health Plan to address the underlying challenges within the public healthcare system within the next 18 months.

For any further details, contact Dr. Karl le Roux, Chairperson of RuDASA, on 072 858 9751